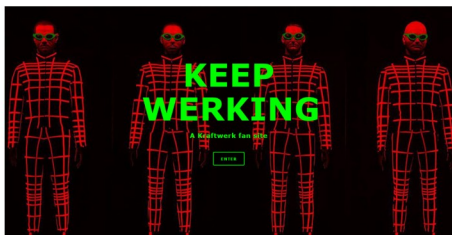


THE COMPLETE
KRAFTWERKERS
GUIDE TO
BOOTLEG CD'S
(SO FAR!)

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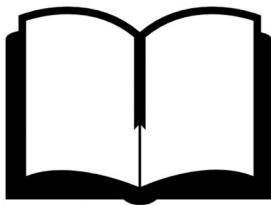
K R A F T W E R K F A N Z I N E

This document contains the scanned pages of one of the Kraftwerk Aktivität Fanzines or complimentary publications that were produced from 1992 through to 1998.

During this time 10 Fanzines were published along with various update issues and other complimentary publications.

The scans have only been altered for clarity, with the exception of addresses and phone numbers that have now been blocked out. So please note that all errors and miss-information are as they appeared at the time of publication. Later issues tried to address the earlier problems as the production team put more stringent editorial practices in place.

Best viewed with two pages side-by-side



THE COMPLETE
KRAFTWERKERS GUIDE TO BOOTLEG CD'S
(SO FAR!)

THE COMPLETE KRAFTWERKERS GUIDE TO BOOTLEG CD'S (SO FAR!)

Before we begin it is worthwhile pointing out the fact that when buying bootleg CD's, you are dealing with merchandise that is at best semi-legal and more often than not strictly illegal. The purpose of this guide is not to promote these items, more it is a damage-limitation scenario. It is a fact of life that people are going to want to buy these things, so it is perhaps best to point out the real stinkers in the pack, and in some way hope that it helps to prevent readers from parting with cash needlessly. Collating this information helps shine some light onto the subject and it could be argued that it will help prevent at least as many purchases as it would encourage. Particularly with regard to mail order, you have little opportunity to pore over the merchandise before buying, so it is often inevitable that you take a chance and hope you end up with something decent. Perhaps this can redress the balance.

It is also a fact of life that the band themselves will see almost no money whatsoever from such CD's. Until the laws, particularly on the continent, are more defined on the subject, then bootleg material will continue, although at the time of writing this article legislation in Europe is becoming stricter with regard to such items.

Often, it is difficult to know what you are actually obtaining when purchasing bootleg material, particularly with regard to the quality of the recording itself. There is very little you can do once the purchase has been made if you subsequently find the material of poor quality. Very often, these CD's are produced by people with little or no regard for the particular artist concerned. This is worth pondering over since Kraftwerk themselves maintain such a rigorous control over their own releases.

As you read on, you will no doubt notice that the amount of live Kraftwerk bootlegs is quite staggering, even more so when you take into account how infrequently the band embark on live tours.

The quality of bootleg material varies, some good, some very poor. While there are a number of poor quality examples, I have found that the majority of this material is on the whole quite good, this probably being due to the fact that modern day recording and editing techniques and up to date technology help a great deal, especially since the introduction of Digital Audio Tape (DAT).

To conclude this introduction, it's obvious that live Kraftwerk material is much in demand, as sales of bootlegs suggest such. Maybe it is time for Kraftwerk to acknowledge this fact and consider actually releasing something of a similar, though better quality, nature. It's what we all want!

□

**Written by Paul Corner. Additional comments by IAC.
March 1995**

BREMEN

A limited release from Japan, the concert is credited as being recorded at Bremen, 21/6/71, but it is the same concert as featured on the 'Cologne' picture disc bootleg LP. Sound quality is much about the same as the picture disc LP, perhaps a little better, but not much. The picture disc LP recording was not exactly brilliant sound quality to begin with, so that means its quite poor really.

The cover is printed on stiff card and shows a black and white photo of two men stood around masses of electrical patch cords and cables. Doesn't have any particular relevance to Kraftwerk; looks more like the gear you would associate with Tangerine Dream! Printed over the black and white pic are random blue, pink and white squares.

Track listing:- 'Stratovarius', 'Ruckzuck', 'Vom Himmel Hoch'

Price: £35+

THE EARLY DAYS

This CD is also a limited release originating from Japan. Usually it seems to be the case that a limited number of a few hundred are pressed, hence the silly prices that such items change hands for. This CD is a compilation of early tracks, some of the titles are unfamiliar leading you to believe they may be unreleased tracks, but this is not so; those tracks with strange titles are actually familiar tracks;

'Klangkorper' is in fact 'Ananas Symphonie'

'Welten im Orbit' is 'Strom'

'Harmonie und Einheit' is 'Heimatklaenge'

'Glücksgefühle' is 'Tanzmusik'

'Morgenspaziergang' is 'Kometenmelodie' 1 & 2 (live in Paris, 1976)

'Meteoritenstaub' is 'Tanzmusik' (live in Paris, 1976)

'Umspannwerk' is 'Ruckstoess Gondoliere', from the famous 1971 TV appearance.

'Morgenspaziergang' is credited as a live recording from l'Olympia, Paris, 1971, but is of course 'Kometenmelodie'. Similarly, the live version of 'Metropolis' which is actually the same as the version on the 'Computer Tour' CD (recorded live in Utrecht, Holland, 1981) is credited here as having been recorded in Cologne, 1975 - again, erroneous.

'Meteoritenstaub' is a live recording from 1976, originally from one side of the 'Machine' bootleg LP.

The cover is a close up of Ralf, made up of tiny dots (half-tone screen) and printed on stiff cardboard, although at first glance of the pic you would be forgiven for thinking it may be Elvis Costello! (It's actually one of the pictures from the middle of the gatefold LP cover of 'Kraftwerk 2'.)

Tracklisting:-

'Klangkorper', 'Welten Im Orbit', 'Harmonie und Einheit', 'Glücksgefühle',

'Morgenspaziergang', 'Meteoritestaub', 'Metropolis', 'Umspannwerk'.

(See above for real titles!)

Price: £40+

LIVE IN COLOGNE 1975

Contains only three tracks on a CD which until very recently was the earliest example of Kraftwerk's live shows available on CD. The tracks are 'Ruckzuck', 'Kometenmelodie' 1 and 2 and 'Autobahn'. (The packaging only makes reference to 'Kometenmelodie 1', as although both portions are present they are treated as one track.). A copy of this CD is a must for any Kraftwerk collection as the sound quality is very good, even down to the audience (of what sounds like about fifty people) politely applauding in between tracks. (The original source of this recording is a radio broadcast, hence the high quality.)

The band sound very 'raw' on this CD as they have totally live keyboards, flutes, percussion etc. What little 'sampling' they have used here is all on cassettes, which were changed manually, between numbers. Don't forget this is some 10 years before MIDI set-ups.

The cover of the CD is an old style 'sepia' photo of the band sat round a small table, as if they are waiting patiently for a bottle of wine which Florian had ordered some fifteen minutes previously!! (An earlier, more basic version of the photo that later appeared on the inner cover of the 'TEE' album.)

Tracks listing:-

Ruckzuck, Kometenmelodie 1 and 2, Autobahn

Price:- £15.00

KOMETENMELODIE (LIVE IN COLOGNE 1975)

A re-issue of the above CD, but packaged as per the original vinyl bootleg LP from whence it first came. Very recent, hence not much details as yet.

Tracks listing:-

Ruckzuck, Kometenmelodie 1 and 2, Autobahn

Price:- £15.00

COMPUTERTOUR - 1981

This CD is quite difficult to find now as it was one of the first bootlegs to feature the 1981 tour. Track 1 is called 'Computer Games' on the packaging but is in reality the song 'Metropolis'. Tracks 1-5 were recorded at Vredenburg, Utrecht in Holland and the sound quality is excellent, hailing originally from a radio broadcast. The CD is let down by tracks 6-11, recorded in the UK at the Locarno, in Bristol, as they are rather inferior in sound quality, an unspectacular audience recording the source of these. The bizarre CD cover design bears no relevance to Kraftwerk at all.

Well worth buying for the first tracks alone as they combine excellent sound quality with first rate versions of the tracks themselves, in particular 'Metropolis' and 'Radioactivity'.

Track listing:-

Metropolis (aka Computer Games), The Model, Radioactivity, Computer Love, Autobahn, Numbers, Computer World, Home Computer, Neon Lights, The Hall Of Mirrors (aka Looking Glass), Showroom Dummies.

Price:- £High - now a rare item, difficult to come by.

NUMBERS - TOKYO, JAPAN, 1981

The highlight of this particular CD is the packaging. Brilliant, colour photo's of the band whilst playing 'Pocket Calculator', 'TEE' and 'The Robots'. I think the pictures are reproduced from the now very rare Japanese tour programme from 1981. Printed on a textured quality paper for this release.

Sound quality is excellent, in stereo, mixing desk quality, again originally hailing from a radio broadcast. It is rumoured about 50-100 copies of this original CD existed. True or not, I don't personally know. (The later 're-issue' confuses matters.) The disc of this original release is yellow, with the drawings originally used on the 'Pocket Calculator' sleeve printed on it.

The version of 'Its More Fun To Compute' is a particular highlight as it is so different to the official studio LP version.

Track listing:-

Numbers, Computer World, Computer Love, Home Computer, Neon Lights, Autobahn, Showroom Dummies, Trans-Europe Express-Metal On Metal, The Robots, It's More Fun To Compute.

Price:- £High - this original issue is very rare.

NUMBERS - TOKYO, JAPAN, 1981

This 're-issue' (if it can be termed as such) is exactly the same as the aforementioned but with inferior quality paperwork for packaging/printing, the clarity of which is much more 'fuzzy'. The disc itself is a plain silver design with track listing printed on it. The sound quality is once again excellent.

Track listing:- as before

Price:- £15.00

VIRTU EX MACHINA - TOKYO, JAPAN, 1981

Same concert/recording as featured on 'Numbers', but track 1 on this CD - 'Beethoven - Intro' - is actually by Walter/Wendy Carlos, of the 'Switched on Bach' classics recreated on synths fame. Why this has been chosen as an intro is anyone's guess but the track switches to 'Numbers' and the rest of the concert proceeds as per the 'Numbers' CD, quality intact.

The cover of 'Virtu Ex Machina' is a colour photo, from the 'Man Machine' inner sleeve, the band looking to their left over a staircase with their left hands on their hips. The original copies of the disc are yellow, later copies are orange.

Track listing:-

as per 'Numbers' but with 'Beethoven-Intro' as track 1.

Price:- £15.00

NIPPON NUMBERS - TOKYO, JAPAN, 1981

Once again, the same recording as first appeared on 'Numbers', quality still excellent. Sleeve design shows a nice, colour photo from the 1981 tour with three of the band visible, wearing red shirts.

Tracklisting:- as per 'Numbers'

Price:- £15.00

HYPER CEREBRAL MACHINE - ITALY 1981

Recorded at the Apollo Theatre, Firenze (Florence) according to the sleeve credits, but I believe that it is actually Milan, as it's from the same source as the 'Security Device' bootleg LP, which is Milan. (The Firenze gig is featured on the 'Central Passage' bootleg LP.) Sound quality is not bad but it does have a slight echo to it, being an audience recording. (Adjustment of the microphone used for recording can also be heard occasionally, which can be irritating.) The sleeve design has no relevance to Kraftwerk, having some sort of cyborg's head on the cover, but is suitably modern.

Track listing:-

Numbers, Computer World, Computer Love, Home Computer, The Model, Neon Lights, Geiger Counter, Radioactivity, The Voice of Energy, Trans-Europe Express - Metal On Metal, The Hall of Mirrors, Showroom Dummies, Pocket Calculator, The Robots

Price:- £15.00

ENREGISTREE LIVE A L'OLYMPIA - PARIS, FRANCE, 1981

Despite sleeve credits to the contrary, both this CD and the following 'Computers In Love' both feature recordings of the same concert, but of different sources and quality.

Slightly better sound quality than the previous CD but it is spoiled by the fact that the recording is 'speeded up'. Definitely not a contender for best sleeve design. It has a predominately yellow cover with some sort of machine parts arranged to look like a humanoid figure, with the 'radioactive' symbol in the background.

'Showroom Dummies' is actually listed as 'Trans American' on the cover. Because the concert was played in France, it was the French version of the track ('Les Mannequins'), which can, to some ears, sound incredibly like 'Trans American' - well, the bootlegger thought so!

Track listing:-

Computer World, Home Computer, Computer Love, The Model, Neon Lights, Radioactivity, The Voice of Energy, Ohm Sweet Ohm, Autobahn, The Hall Of Mirrors, Showroom Dummies, Trans-Europe Express - Metal On Metal.

Price:- £15.00

COMPUTERS IN LOVE - 1981

This seems to be the only double-CD from the 1981 tour recordings and is probably the best for sound quality in terms of a full concert, though it must be noted that 'Ohm, Sweet Ohm' and 'Mini Calculateur' are incomplete recordings. (The Japanese recording on the

'Numbers' and associated CD's is better but only features a portion of the gig, not the whole concert.) Of mixing desk origin, it is far superior to the previously discussed 'Enregistree...' CD.

For me personally, the highlight of the CD is the brilliant version of 'It's More Fun To Compute' played as one of the encores. It is actually the version played very fast with all the weird noises that accompany it.

The packaging of the CD comes in a thick (double width) jewel case with two different openings, one of which houses each CD. The cover and back pictures are sadly not of Kraftwerk but are stills from the Disney science fiction film, 'Tron'.

'The Hall Of Mirrors' is listed as 'Looking Glass' on the sleeve. The versions of 'Showroom Dummies' and 'Pocket Calculator' are the French language versions.

This CD is quite easily available from record fairs and shops around Europe and it is well worth investigating and buying a copy if you don't already own one.

Track listing:-

Disc One:- Numbers, Computer World, Home Computer, Computer Love, The Model, Neon Lights, Radioactivity, Ohm Sweet Ohm,

Disc Two:- Autobahn, The Hall Of Mirrors, Les Mannequins, Trans-Europe Express - Metal On Metal, Mini Calculateur, The Robots, It's More Fun To Compute.

Price:- £28.00

RIMINI RIMINI - BOLOGNA, ITALY, 1990

This is the only full length CD featuring a recording from the 1990 'test tour', where the band performed at various venues around Italy, over 12 months before the release of 'The Mix' and the full-on, polished 1991 tours, though much briefer extracts are also on 'Heute Abend'.

Had the original master tape from whence this CD sprang from been recorded properly it would have been a must for collectors to obtain, with its odd, early drafts of the updated versions of the songs later refined on 'The Mix', but sadly it's a bit of a let down. The versions of the songs are clearly different to the later versions, but I don't think they were meant to be recorded at a turntable speed of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm, when it should be playing at 45rpm, to emphasise it! Suffice it to say, this CD plays slo-o-o-o-w...

Also note that it is doubtful, to say the least, that Kraftwerk played the Italian holiday resort of Rimini, but ask any Kraftwerk fan and they will tell you that this concert was in fact from Bologna. Unless my geography is not up to scratch, they are two different places in Italy!

Though the sound quality is poor, the packaging is good, possibly lulling a few sales on its strength alone. Packaging for the CD comes in a standard box but with a flip over tray to contain the two CD's. The picture on the front is of four figures playing invisible synthesizers, folding out to reveal nice colour pictures of the band members. The CD case also comes packaged with a wrap-around cardboard outer sleeve.

All in all, you would be better off tracking down a copy of the 'Return of The Mensch Maschine' double LP, as it is better quality.

Track listing:-

Disc One:- Numbers, Computer World, Tour De France, The Model, Computer Love, Home Computer, Autobahn, Radioactivity.

Disc Two:- Trans-Europe Express, Pocket Calculator, The Robots, Musique Non Stop.

Price:- £25.00

N1 TO ZÜRICH - ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND, 1991

Single CD with very good sound quality. Sadly, the CD is let down by the fact that the tracks only run from the end of 'Numbers' to 'Trans-Europe Express', so the full concert is not included. With the geographical location of the concert, the songs are sung in German. The sleeve design is rather poor, the cover is a sort of cartoon drawing of an industrial skyline/atomic installation.

Track listing:-

Nummern (Excerpt), Computer Welt, Heimcomputer Computer Liebe, Das Modell, Tour De France, Autobahn, Radioaktivität , Trans-Europa Express.

Price:- £15.00

TANZ MUSIK - SWITZERLAND, 1991

Exactly the same concert as the aforementioned 'N1 To Zürich' CD, except for the complete absence of 'Nummern'. The sleeve design is of a German flag used as a background for an illustration of an old, analogue style synthesizer with ships masts/sails on it!! (All rather bizarre!) With some nice live pics inside too. Same, excellent quality as 'N1 To Zürich'.

Track listing:-

Computer Welt, Heimcomputer Computer Liebe, Das Modell, Tour De France, Autobahn, Radioaktivität , Trans-Europa Express.

Price:- £15.00

HEUTE ABEND - VARIOUS VENUES, 1990/1991

Probably the most mass-produced Kraftwerk bootleg ever! Hands up those who do not have a copy? Don't worry if you don't 'cos its certainly nothing to write home about. This double CD is comprised of different tracks taken from various venues (see tracklisting for details). Also included are a couple of soundcheck recordings taken from the Edinburgh '91 gig. It's from this soundcheck that the now infamous changed lyrics to 'The Model' was noted, so proving that Ralf does have a sense of humour! The latter 3 tracks are from the Italian 'test tour' of 1990 and these sound like the noise emitted from a Sony Walkman when someone else is wearing the earphones! The CD comes in a thick style case with the two openings where each CD is housed. The cover, which is something of a pastiche of 'The Mix', is dark blue with superimposed black and white live pics of both Ralf and Florian.

The sleeve lists 'It's More Fun To Compute' as one of the tracks, but it is actually part of 'Home Computer', (a la 'The Mix').

Track listing:-

Disc one:- Intro, Numbers, Computer World, (Recorded at Brixton Academy, London, 1991), Home Computer, Computer Love, The Model, Tour De France, (Recorded at Sheffield City Hall, 1991), Autobahn, Radioactivity, Trans-Europe Express - Abzug - Metal On Metal, (Recorded at The Hummingbird, Birmingham, 1991).

Disc Two:-

The Robots, Robotronik, Pocket Calculator, (Recorded at The City Hall, Sheffield, 1991), Music Non Stop, (Recorded at The Playhouse, Edinburgh, 1991), The Model, Pocket Calculator (soundcheck versions, recorded at The Playhouse, Edinburgh, 1991), Numbers, Computer World, Autobahn, (Recorded at Grassina, Casa Del Popolo, Italy, 1990).

Price:- £28.00

NON-STOP - STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, 1991

Double CD featuring the full concert. Sound quality very good but the crowd noise is quite prominent. Although this may be a drawback the music is still heard quite easily and the crowd does certainly add a 'live' feel to the recording. There is a brilliant cock-up of 'Autobahn'; did Ralf fall asleep or what?!

There appears to be variations in the packaging of this CD, some copies featuring some nice live pics on the back cover, other copies don't. Some are in double-width cases, some in normal width cases. The rather naff picture of a cigarette lighter that constitutes the sleeve design on the front is quite a bizarre choice and is of no relevance I can think of!. Inside this there are some slightly naff black and white pictures of the band and robots, copied from a Swedish music magazine, 'New Life'.

Like 'Heute Abend', the sleeve lists 'It's More Fun To Compute' as one of the tracks, but it is actually part of 'Home Computer', (a la 'The Mix'). 'Music Non Stop' is from Edinburgh.

Track listing:-

Disc one:- Intro, Numbers, Computer World, Home Computer, Computer Love, The Model, Autobahn.

Disc Two:- Radioactivity, Trans-Europe Express - Abzug - Metal On Metal, The Robots, Pocket Calculator, Music Non Stop.

Price:- £28.00

REBUILT IN '92 - DÜSSELDORF, GERMAN

The boys play in their home town on this CD, which comes as a two part CD set, though the two CD's are sold separately as part 1 and part 2. Excellent sound quality, though an audience recording, with the songs being, obviously, the German language versions.

This gig was of course the one where things went wrong in a big way; the show came to a halt shortly after 'Computer Welt' commenced, a computer breakdown the cause. A mite cruel perhaps, but the audience found this ghost in the machine highly amusing, especially Kraftwerk's attempts to restart the computer programme, with almost comic results. (They eventually retreated behind the curtains for a short while and got the computer sorted out, proper like!)

Unfortunately, this whole episode is not on this CD! What a let down!

After the encores on disc two, the bootleggers filled in the blank spaces with some remixes and megamixes, one of which being the much talked about 'demo edit' of 'Technopop', circa 1983, totally different from the eventual version released on the 'Electric Cafe' album some three years later. The version on this CD is actually slightly longer than on the later remix compilation CDs.

Each of the CD's has its own sleeve design and both relate to the 1981 incarnations of the bands dummies, one of which is laid in its carrying case looking rather like a morbid vision of Wolfgang in a coffin.

Track listing:-

Part 1:- Nummern, Computer Welt, Heimcomputer, Computer Liebe, Das Modell, Tour De France, Autobahn, Radioaktivität, Trans-Europa Express - Abzug - Metall Auf Metall.

Part 2:- Die Roboter, Robotronik, Taschenrechner, Musik Non Stop, (All live versions), Rewerked (Music Factory Master Mix), The Mix Medley (Razormaid Gridlock Mix), Sex Object (Razormaid Mix), Technopop (Demo Edit 1983)

Price:- £15.00 each

KRAFTWERK - DÜSSELDORF PHILIPSHALLE, 31/10/91

Exactly the same as the 'Rebuilt in 92' CD's in terms of the material on the discs, but these come with totally different cover designs/artwork. These ones come with much cheaper packaging, black and white printing though on yellow paper. CD 1 features a pic of the bands robots c.1991, CD 2 features some other kind of robot head or such, but most un-Kraftwerk like.

Track listing:- as before.

Price:- £15.00 each

DANGER! RADIOACTIVITY OVER EUROPE - HAMBURG 1991

Another double CD from 1991, featuring the full Hamburg docks concert, once again in German. Sound quality is not too good, sounds distinctly on the slow side. One of the very few bootleg CD's not to originate from central europe (i.e. Italy, Germany, Luxembourg), the credits indicating its origin from Haifa, Israel on the reverse of the cover.

The sleeve artwork is quite poor, an ersatz version of the radioactivity symbol in black against a pale yellow background. Standard width case with flip over style tray.

Track listing:-

Disc One:- Nummern, Computer Welt, Heimcomputer, Computer Liebe, Das Modell, Tour De France, Autobahn.

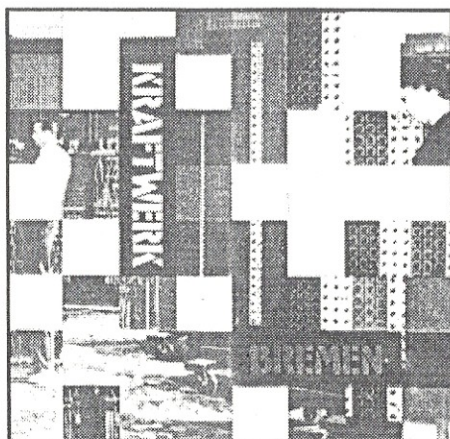
Disc Two:- Radioaktivität, Trans-Europa Express (- Abzug - Metall Auf Metall), Die Roboter/ Robotronik, Taschenrechner, Musik Non Stop

Price:- £28.00

EARLY DAYS



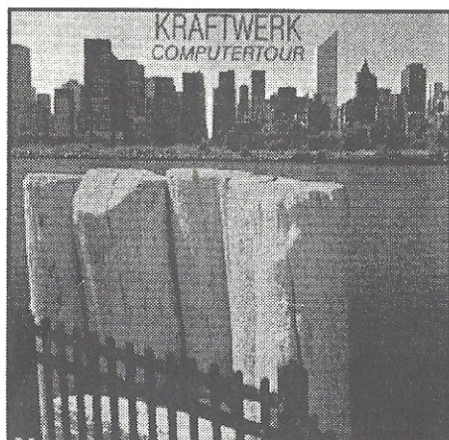
BREMEN



COLOGNE 1975



COMPUTERTOUR



TONE FLOAT

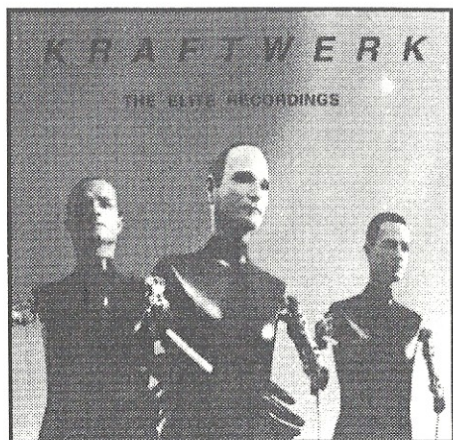


N1 TO ZÜRICH





THE REMIX
ORIGINAL RELEASE



THE ELITE RECORDINGS



MAN MACHINE RECREATED

ACADEMY THEATRE - BRIXTON ACADEMY, LONDON, 1991

Double CD with decent sound quality, but sounds a little heavy on bass. An amusing moment after the electronic voice intro, as 'Numbers' breaks down to complete silence for a few seconds, much to the crowds amazement. The whole concert is included. The case is the standard width, flip-over style 'brilliant box'. The cover has a very nice, full colour photo of the band, from a rare 'balcony' shot, which gives a good view of the Kling Klang set.

Track listing:-

Disc one:- Numbers, Computer World, Home Computer, Computer Love, The Model, Tour De France, Autobahn, Radioactivity.

Disc Two:- Trans-Europe Express (- Abzug - Metal On Metal), The Robots, Pocket Calculator, Music Non Stop.

Price:- £28.00

KLING UND KLANG - MILAN, ITALY, 1991.

Sound quality is very, very good, marred only by the fact that it is a single CD, so the full concert is not included and in addition, some of the track have also been edited further, even though the playing time of the CD is only around 55 minutes or so, so it can't be down to lack of space.

The CD does however include some nice packaging, with some brilliant, black and white, photo's. Strangely, considering the choice available, the front cover photo is from 1981, one of the 'Computer World' session 'dummies' photo's. The booklet is quite substantial and accompanying each live photo there is also a quote from Ralf, hailing from the 'Man, Machine and Music' book. There is also a nice close up of Ralf, with the track listing alongside, on the rear case. The booklet is courtesy of Luca Morandi, an avid reader of Aktivität, I am told. Congratulations Luca, if you are reading this!

Track listing:-

Numbers, Computer World, Computer Love, Tour De France, (Stop) Radioactivity, Autobahn, The Robots, Music Non Stop.

Price:- see Luca! (around about £15.00 normally)

TRAFFIC JAM ON AUTOBAHN - BIRMINGHAM, 1991.

Another double CD featuring a full 1991 concert. Very good sound quality, as the tape originates from a mixing desk copy.

Another single box with the familiar flip-over trays to hold each CD. Cover artwork is a bit basic, featuring a yellow background with the familiar blue/white autobahn/motorway logo as seen on the original 'Autobahn' LP sleeve. The inside of this insert features a yellow-tinged pic of the band members performing 'Pocket Calculator' back in 1981. The discs themselves have attractive motifs, one featuring the robot line-drawing seen on the inner sleeves for 'The Mix', the other disc features a bar-code motif, inspired perhaps by the rather nice ticket designs used for the 1991 German tour dates. (Some copies have a reproduction of these.)

Track listing:-

Disc one:- Intro, Numbers, Computer World, Home Computer, Computer Love, The Model, Tour De France, Autobahn, Radioactivity.

Disc Two:- Trans-Europe Express (- Abzug - Metal On Metal), The Robots/Robotronik, Pocket Calculator, Music Non Stop.

Price:- £25.00-28.00

REMIX CD'S

Over the past eighteen months or so there has been an ever increasing amount of CD's containing various permutations of remixes, megamixes and demo versions of Kraftwerk tracks. This can probably be attributed to two main factors; 1) bootleggers 'gazumping' other bootleggers material, it being easier to rehash a selection of remixes into something resembling a 'fresh' release 2) laws which have come into being on the continent making it illegal to copy 'live' gigs onto CD. Presumably the bootleggers have been able to exploit some kind of inconsistency and thus produce CD's semi-legally by issuing such non-live material, hence the glut of remixes, particularly 'new' remixes.

Unless you are an avid CD collector, or eager to hear remixed version of Kraftwerk favourites in any old manner, I wouldn't recommend purchasing a great deal of such material.

There are a few reasons to support this; the main reason being that there are so many of these CD's about with exactly the same tracks on them. Many of them are merely listed in a different order or perhaps with one or two different mixes for good measure. Some are exactly the same as earlier issues but with new packaging and a new title.

Bear in mind too that most of the material has been mastered from vinyl copies of the particular DJ remix 12", so imperfections, such as scratches or static can be present - 'needle to the record' syndrome.

I know this sort of material is not to everybody's taste and many of these tracks have never before been available commercially, as they are limited to DJ's who pay subscriptions for such privileges.

THE REMIX

The first of these type of CD's to appear, 'The Remix' consists of various remixes, megamixes and demo's. Most of the remixes are by the American company 'Razormaid', who specialise in remixing material, mainly for dance floor purposes.

The CD cover is quite good, showing a colour photo of Wolfgang in the familiar 'Man Machine' outfit, looking over his console, a photo from a 1981 gig presumably. The CD itself has only a title of 'Worked Out' on it, as well as quite a few of the line-drawing robot illustrations of the 'Mix' era.

The music in more detail; Computer Welt (Razormaid Mix) is a megamix of tracks from the 1981 LP; Das Model (Razormaid Edit) (2.26) combines elements of 'Boing Boom Tschak' along with both the English and German language versions of 'The Model'. Pity it's so short as it's a good one this. Pocket Calculator (Mixx-It Remix)(6.33) is a remix of the 1991 version of the track. The Mix Medley (Razormaid Mix)(13.18) is as the title suggests a megamix of tracks from 1991's LP. Re-werked (Music Factory Master Mix)(4.39) is a mix of various tracks, in megamix style with additional rhythmic elements bunged in for good measure. Sex Object (Technopop Version)(4.02) is a stripped down, rather maudlin version of the track that appears in much more orchestrated form on 'Electric Cafe'. Electric Cafe (Mix-It Remix)(5.06) is pretty unremarkable; more or less just a case of someone dubbing a drum machine on top of the original. Technopop (Demo Version (4.19) is fantastically different from the finished 'EC' version and is well worth investigating, though this version is marginally shorter than the one that first appeared on the second 'Rebuilt In 92' CD.

Those remixes not mentioned are based on the familiar versions of the tracks and vary in the amount of remixing involved.

Track listing:-

Computer Welt (Razormaid Mix)(10.00), Das Model (Razormaid Edit) (2.26), Sex Object (Razormaid Mix)(7.41)*, Pocket Calculator (Mixx-It Remix)(6.33), The Telephone Call(Razormaid Mix)(6.48), The Mix Medley (Razormaid Mix)(13.18)*, Re-werked (Music Factory Master Mix)(4.39)*, Sex Object (Technopop Version)(4.02), Tour De France (Disconet Remix)(5.33), Electric Cafe (Mix-It Remix)(5.06), Technopop (Demo Version (4.19)*

Price:- £15.00

** Tracks marked with an asterisk first appeared on the 'Rebuilt In 92' CD*

THE REMIX

A second version of this CD appeared in mid 1994. In terms of material on the disc, exactly the same. Packaging is totally different however. Front cover features some colour pics of the bands robots from 1991. The disc has some 'fractal' artwork and the casing is all clear, through which further artwork can be seen, much in vogue these days.

Track listing:- as before

Price:- £15.00

THE REMIX

There is now a third version of this CD, again with altered packaging, which became available at the tail end of 1994. The artwork is even more abstract and again of little relevance to Kraftwerk.

Track listing:- as before

Price:- £15.00

THE FIRST DJ EDITION

Following on from the original issue of 'The Remix', this CD appeared not too long afterwards. Again, a single CD, containing some remixes etc. ... see track listing for details.

The cover is a kind of 'reverse' of 'The Mix' sleeve, a bit cheeky. Instead of a dark blue background it is a deep red, with the same pic of the Ralf robot as on 'The Mix'. The rest of the cover also utilises pics of the robots from the gatefold of the 'Mix' LP cover. the disc itself has no titles on it, but is blue with the 'Autobahn' sign printed on it in white.

There are three tracks on this CD which are not on 'The Remix'; 'Die Roboter' (US Rap Mix) (as the title ominously suggests, dreadful), 'Powerwork Megamix' (interesting choice of Kraftwerk samples, mainly rhythmic and/or percussive) and 'Telephone' (Mix) (another rather poor one - manages to also mix in Yello's 'I Love You' and another track which I don't recognise).

(In a comparison, I found the sound quality of some of the mixes to be better on 'The Remix' than on this CD, such as 'The Mix Medley', which has more surface noise evident on this CD. - IAC.)

Track listing:-

Electric Cafe (Mixx-It Remix), Die Roboter (US-Rap-Mix), Sex Object (Demo Mix), Computer Welt (Razormaid Mix), Powerwork Megamix, Telephone-Mix, Re-werked (Music Factory Master Mix), The Mix Medley (Razormaid Mix), Sex Object (Razormaid Mix)

Price:- £15.00

THE ELITE RECORDINGS

This CD is exactly the same as 'The First DJ Edition' in terms of music, but once again the title and packaging have been completely altered so as to give the appearance of something new and different. The three images of the robots from 'The First DJ Edition' have been merged together and superimposed against a multi-coloured background for the front cover. The rest of the cover is rather lacklustre, though the CD itself does actually display the title of the CD.

Track listing:- see 'The First DJ Edition'

Price:- £15.00

SCHÖNE NEUE WELT - REMIX, REMODEL

The title suggests 'Brave New World'- my German is not that good by the way! - and neither is this CD, if you happen to already own any of the other titles listed so far. Yet another outing for the remixes that made up both 'The First DJ Edition' and 'The Elite Recordings'. But just to be unique(?) it does also include both 'Housephone' and 'The Telephone Call' (7" Remix) (whoopee!) from the 1987 single.

However, it does have a very nice sleeve. The front has a photo of the band circa 'The Man Machine' period, standing on a staircase in red shirts etc. The back cover photo is a 'fish-eye' lens pic of the Man Machine dummies in front of their respective fluorescent name boxes and instruments, all in front of a 'Man Machine' backdrop, at one of the promotional launches for the LP back in 1978. The CD disc itself has the wire-framed heads (back view) from the 'Electric Cafe' era printed on it - in a choice of six different colours too!

Track listing:-

as 'The First DJ Edition' but also with 'Housephone' and 'The Telephone Call' (7" Remix).

Price:- £15.00

ULTRA RARE TRAX

Quite an odd CD; a the title suggests rare tracks, but I doubt if anybody would have heard of them.

They seem to have been put together by an amateur DJ who is also a Kraftwerk fan. Basically they are just the main tunes and basslines with additional elements added to them. Personally, I found them a little monotonous. All are unique to this CD.

The cover is quite good, a kind of abstract 'Man Machine', where the group members are wearing not red but blue shirts! The back cover is another picture from one of the 'Man Machine' launch events, this time the picture is positioned between two traffic cone illustrations. Along with the track listings are brief comments of how the particular mixes originated.

Track listing:-

Computer World (Klick Mix), Pocket Calculator (East Meets West Mix), Music Non Stop (Cut Up Mix), Trans-Europe Express (TEE Mix), The Robots (Program Mix), Autobahn (People's Car Mix), Europe Endless (Open Borders Mix), Man Machine (Space Mix), The Model (Catbonic Mix), Neon Lights (Ton-Up Mix), Showroom Dummies (MCMG Mix)

Price:- £15.00

THE MAN MACHINE RECREATED

Much along the same idea as the previously discussed CD, but the sound quality is different and much more listenable. Some tracks have various samples in them. For example, 'The Robots' has some samples from the Balanescu Quartet's own string arrangement of the track, while 'The Model' has the techno-bass riff from 'I Like To Move It' by Real To Reel. The 'Man Machine' track samples the electronic intro that Kraftwerk use at the start of each gig but unfortunately it has been taken from an inferior source on this occasion, however the track features other samples too, in the Man/Machine theme, namely Laurie Anderson's 'O Superman' and Hard Corps' 'Metal and Flesh'. 'Tour De France' is a completely different arrangement, with very little of it actually sampled from the Kraftwerk track, but it is nevertheless worth a listen.

The cover is quite tongue in cheek as it is a very close copy of the original 'Man Machine' design, but coloured predominately in purple instead of the original red, with the text 'includes bonus track 'Tour De France' mocked up to fill the portions that were in other languages on the original cover. Incidentally, the majority of the lyrics are sung in German on this CD.

Track listing:-

The Robots (Space Strings Mix), The Model (German Model Mix), Spacelab (Shuttle Mix), Metropolis (Lost Town Mix), Neon Lights (Stratosphear Mix), The Man Machine (Forward March Mix), Tour De France (Arrivéé Mix)

Price £12-£15

Recommended; 'The Remix'

THE EARLY ALBUMS ...

It was only a matter of time before any of the earlier Kraftwerk albums would be copied onto CD format. Seeing as the band didn't seem concerned by the continuing non-appearance of their early and long since deleted LP's on CD format, the bootleggers have beaten them to it. And why not, after all it's what the fans wanted.

All the following CD's are very good in sound quality. Some may have very slight crackles and static, having been copied from original vinyl LP copies, but certainly nothing to gripe about too much. Bearing in mind that there can't be too many 'mint' condition vinyl copies around, they are ideal for replacing your vinyl and thus preserving them in good nick, as the vinyl copies are now worth small fortunes. The copies on the Germanofon label are particularly recommended over the later ones with bonus tracks, as they have less of the original surface noise evident.

There are already multiple versions of each of these CD's now available. The first copies to appear were the ones on the Germanofon label. These are very faithful to the original LP's, in terms of artwork and contents. Later copies appeared, with no label to speak of, and these are easily distinguished from the aforementioned ones by the following details; each of the CD's contains an extra bonus track, the CD trays are clear (not grey) plastic and the packaging is not quite so faithful to the originals, and omits some of the original artwork. (e.g. the UK cover design of 'Ralf & Florian' and the 'musicomix' poster insert etc.) The most recent copies are on an Italian label, Crown.

A further twist to the tale is that the Germanofon releases have been spotted for sale in shops such as HMV, begging the question 'are these bootlegs or not?' Seems unlikely that HMV would knowingly stock bootleg material. Also seems unlikely that an official re-issue would be mastered from original vinyl LP copies! So, who knows for sure what the source is?

KRAFTWERK

Germanofon 941001

The cover artwork is almost exactly the same as the original LP sleeve, with the traffic cone design, except that the traffic cone is coloured red (instead of the original orange) and there are extra titles added to the back, to list the songs themselves. The inner portion of the CD insert also features the original black and white photo's, as per the original LP sleeve, though the reproduction is darker and less detailed than the original LP sleeve. The CD itself features the traffic cone design, in red. Although this CD has been mastered from a vinyl copy of the LP, there is little of the surface noise present, though noticeable.

Track listing:-

Ruckzuck, Stratovarius, Megaherz, Vom Himmel Hoch

Price:- £15-£18

KRAFTWERK 2

Germanofon 941002

The same observations apply with regard to this CD as per the previous one. There is perhaps a bit more evidence of surface noise on this CD than the previous one though. The CD features the green traffic cone logo printed on it.

Track listing:-

Kling Klang, Atem, Strom, Spule 4, Wellenlänge, Harmonika.

Price:- £15-£18

RALF AND FLORIAN

Germanofon 941023

In terms of the packaging, this one is very impressive; you have a choice between the UK and German LP covers, as the insert features reproductions of both. In addition to this, some of the copies feature a full colour reproduction of the 'musicomix' poster that came with the original German copies of the LP. (Unfortunately, this doesn't appear to come with all copies, as, on closer examination, those spotted in HMV and suchlike did not have the 'musicomix' insert.) The back of the CD case features the full colour pic of Ralf and Florian seated behind their instrumentation in an early incarnation of Kling Klang studio. All in all, 10 out of 10 for the packaging. The CD itself features a blue version of the traffic cone!

(In terms of sound quality, it remains quite good despite the source. In a direct comparison, I found there to be far less surface noise from the original LP present on this CD than on the later CD copy with the extra track. (IAC))

Track listing:-

Elektrisches Roulette, Tongebirge, Kristallo, Heimatklänge, Tanzmusik, Ananas Symphonie.

Price:- £15-£18

The next set of these bootleg CD studio album releases are as follows...

KRAFTWERK

Similar to the previous issue. The black and white photo's inside are clearer and more enlarged. The CD case is completely see through and so an additional traffic cone logo is visible when the CD is removed from its tray.

Track listing:-

Ruckzuck, Stratovarius, Megaherz, Vom Himmel Hoch,

Bonus track:- Ruckzuck (Live in Cologne, 1975)

Price:- £10-£17

KRAFTWERK 2

Same comments as above, though when the insert is unfolded, it merely reveals the traffic cone logo(s) and not the original black and white photo's, present on the Germanofon release.

Track listing:-

Kling Klang, Atem, Strom, Spule 4, Wellenlänge, Harmonika,

Bonus tracks:- Kometenmelodie (1&2) (Recorded live in Cologne, 1975)

Price:- £10-£17

RALF AND FLORIAN

The packaging of this version features the German LP cover design on the front (the black

and white portrait photo of R&F). Inside, there are the neon-light name boxes for Ralf and, strangely enough, Florian! The back of the insert and also the rear of the CD case, feature the nice colour photo of the pair in the early Kling Klang studio. The CD itself features the front cover black and white pic and when removed from the tray, a pale blue version of the traffic cone is visible.

Track listing:-

Elektrisches Roulette, Tongebirge, Kristallo, Heimatklänge, Tanzmusik, Ananas Symphonie, *Bonus track:-* Autobahn (recorded live in Cologne, 1975)

Price:- £10-£17

The extra bonus tracks, recorded live in Cologne, on the previous three CD's are all originally from the 'Live in Cologne 1975' CD/'Kometenmelodie' bootleg LP.

None of these three CD's have any label/cat. no.

TONE FLOAT (CREDITED TO KRAFTWERK~ORGANISATION)

The pre-Kraftwerk LP, 'Tone Float', transferred to CD for the first time, as part of the same series as the previous three CD's. The sound quality is very good, obviously mastered from a nice quality original of the vinyl LP, though there is some slight distortion present here. In terms of the music, it has similarities to the first Kraftwerk LP, but also has echoes of Pink Floyd (cf. 'Careful With That Axe, Eugene') too I would say, particularly in the organ/bass department.

The packaging is once again adapted from the original LP cover, the insert, when folded out revealing the two versions of the rainbow-coloured face, with the familiar traffic cone logo in between. (The traffic cone logo actually made its first appearance on the original LP cover.) Once again, the clear tray reveals further artwork when the CD, which featured the cover artwork printed on it in different colours, is removed.

Track listing:-

Tone Float, Milk Rock, Silver Forest, Rhythm Salad, Noitasinagro.

Bonus track:- Vor Dem Blauen Bock (which is actually 'Ruckstöss Gondoliere' (from the 1971 'Beat Club' TV appearance).

Price:- £15-£17

KRAFTWERK

Crown Records, CR 0423-2

Of Italian origin, the most recent incarnation of the 'vinyl LP transferred to CD' series; except that it appears to have been mastered from a cassette copy of the LP! So there is no static or crackle, though tape hiss is more evident. The packaging is again based on the original gatefold German LP sleeve, the traffic cone being coloured pink/red on this occasion however! The black and white portions in the middle of the insert are very nice quality, though the credits themselves have been a bit hashed. The CD itself is silver, with the traffic cone logo repeated four times.

Track listing:-

Ruckzuck, Stratovarius, Megaherz, Vom Himmel Hoch

Price:- £15-£18

Summing up, you are best to have your wits about you when dabbling in this field. Prices can vary enormously. The CD's of the early albums are a case in point, with copies ranging from £10 - £18, depending on where you obtain them from. Quality also varies enormously and the best advice, albeit impractical in real life, is to listen first to what you are interested in buying. No matter how nice the packaging may be, the actual music/sound quality may be very poor. □

'AT A GLANCE' LISTING OF CD's COVERED IN THIS BOOKLET

BREMEN	Starquake, SQ-06
THE EARLY DAYS	<i>no label</i>
LIVE IN COLOGNE 1975	Super Golden Radio Shows, SGRS010
KOMETENMELODIE	?
COMPUTERTOUR	DIYE, DIYE56
NUMBERS	<i>no label</i> , K8109
NUMBERS	?
VIRTU EX MACHINA	KLON, 1992001
NIPPON NUMBERS - Tokyo, Japan, 1981	Smurf, <i>no number</i>
HYPER CEREBRAL MACHINE	Men At Work, WORK 5536-2
ENREGISTREE LIVE A L'OLYMPIA	<i>no label</i>
COMPUTERS IN LOVE	Skeleton Songs, SS001/002
RIMINI RIMINI	Love and Money, LM04.2
N1 TO ZÜRICH	Chameleon, CHAM 1-9300
TANZ MUSIK	Four Seasons, FSC005
HEUTE ABEND	Deep Rec., MIK021
NON-STOP	Mixing, 7003
REBUILT IN '92 (PART 1)	Interscope, 872
REBUILT IN '92 (PART 2)	Interscope, 873
Kraftwerk (PART 1) (Düsseldorf Philipshalle, 31/10/91)	Capitol, CAP 1005-1
Kraftwerk (PART 2) (Düsseldorf Philipshalle, 31/10/91)	Capitol, CAP 1005-2
DANGER! RADIOACTIVITY OVER EUROPE	Radioactive Records, 9201-2
ACADEMY THEATRE	Papercorn Music, PC008/9
KLING UND KLANG	<i>no label</i> , KUK 1
TRAFFIC JAM ON AUTOBAHN	Heinz 1/2
THE REMIX	Smurf, Smurf CD92-05
THE REMIX	On-It Music, CD049
THE REMIX	?
THE FIRST DJ EDITION	<i>no label</i>
THE ELITE RECORDINGS	Mannekin Records KRCD282
SCHÖNE NEUE WELT - REMIX, REMODEL	Ping Pong 9401
ULTRA RARE TRAX	<i>no label</i>
THE MAN MACHINE RECREATED	<i>no label</i>
KRAFTWERK	Germanofon, 941001
KRAFTWERK 2	Germanofon, 941002
RALF AND FLORIAN	Germanofon, 941023
KRAFTWERK	<i>no label</i> , WERK 1
KRAFTWERK 2	<i>no label</i> , WERK 2
RALF AND FLORIAN	<i>no label</i> , WERK 3
TONE FLOAT	<i>no label</i> , WERK 4
KRAFTWERK	Crown Records, CR 0423-2

